(iii) Improvement of infrastructure facilities, diversification of tourism products, strengthening of publicity efforts, etc.

(iv) Encourage peoples' participation.

(v) improve quality of service by focussing on human resource development etc.

Water Scarcity in the Country

588. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the World Watch Institute's Report "State of the World 2000" predicting water scarcity in the country not only hitting irrigation water supplies but also causing decline in the life expectancy.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what strategy is contemplated by Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) No such report has been received from the Washington-based World Watch Institute. However, on an average the water availability in the country remains more or less fixed accounting to the natural hydrologic cycle. The per capita water availability is reducing progressively owing to increasing population. The average per capita yearly water availability which is estimated to be about 1900 Cu. m. in 2000 AD may come down to 1350 Cu. m. by 2025 AD at the national level. According to the United Nations' criteria any situation of yearly water availability less than 1000 Cu. m. per capita is considered as scarcity condition. Therefore, even by the end of 2025 A.D., India is not likely to face water scarcity situation at the national level, though uneven water availability may cause local water scarcity in some parts of the country. Measures like Command Area Development Programme and Water Resources Consolidation

Projects have been taken up in various States to *inter-alia* improve efficiency of irrigation water use in the country. The National Water Policy (1987) also provides for better water planning and management of the country's water resources.

Free supply of Water for irrigation purposes

†589. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the States have made a demand to Government with regard to free supply of water for irrigation; if so, the number and names of such States;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision on the demand of State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir. The water charges for irrigation fixed by the State Government themselves.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Settlement of Inter-State River Water Disputes

590. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the inter-State river water disputes pending for settlements;

(b) the stages at which these disputes are pending; and

(c) the details of the steps taken for the speedy settlement of these river water disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.